

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, SP, US
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES YOUTH COUNCIL
PROGRAMS

REF: A. MADRID 7545; B. MADRID 6888

1. RECENT VISITS TO SPAIN BY USYC AND USYC LABOR DESK DELEGATIONS (REFTELS) HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES WITH LEADING SPANISH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH WINGS OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES (UCD'S JUVENTUDES DE UCD, AND THE PSOE'S JUVENTUDES SOCIALISTAS), AS WELL AS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SOCIALIST UGT AND BASQUE STV TRADE UNIONS. TENTATIVE USYC 1979 PLANS ARE FOR AN EXCHANGE OF 6-PERSON LABOR DELEGATIONS AND A VISIT TO THE US BY A 4-PERSON UCD/PSOE YOUTH DELEGATION, TO BE EUNDED BY USYC.

2. THESE EXCHANGES AND RELATED PROGRAMS OBVIOUSLY CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN MERITS. BUT TN THE CASE OF SPAIN THEY ALSO ARE OF SPECIAL UTILITY AS A COMPLEMENT FOR
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THE POST'S INTERNATIONAL LEADER GRANT PROGRAM. BECAUSE THE LATTER PROGRAM NATURALLY FOCUSES ON THE NEW CROP OF TOP-LEVEL NATIONAL LEADERS WHICH HAS EMERGED DURING THE SPANISH TRANSITION, OTHER DESERVING YOUTH LEADERS WITH A BRIGHT POLITICAL FUTURE BUT IN LESS THAN TOP-LEVEL POSITIONS MUST, IN THE NATUUE OF THINGS, TAKE SECOND PRIORITY. THIS IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE SINCE

ONE OF THE STRIKING ASPECTS OF THE SPANISH TRANSITION IS THE NUMBER OF VERY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN CATAPULATED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (ASSISTANT SECRETARY) LEVEL OF GOVT AND TO POSTS OF SIMILAR IMPORTANCE.

3. USYC EXCHANGES ARE AN IDEAL MECHANISM FOR BRINGING THESE STILL IMPRESSIONABLE YOUNG LEADERS TO THE US IN THE NEAR FUTURE, RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THE LEADER GRANT PROGRAM CAN EVENTUALLY WORK ITS WAY DOWN TO THEM. ESPECIALLY ON THE LEFT, USYC EXCHANGES PROVIDE AN AVENUE FOR REACHING YOUNG LEADEES WHO HAVE HAD LITTLE, IF ANY, CONTACT WITH THE US AND WHO HAVE MANY DISTORTED NOTIONS ABOUT US POLITICS AND SOCIETY.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPT AND USICA EXPAND THEIR SUPPORT OF USYC'S SPAIN PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YOUNG SPANISH LEADERS WHO CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE US. SPECIFICALLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT FUNDS FOR USYC'S LABOR AND NON-LABOR EXCHANGES BE INCREASED, TO PERMIT AS MANY AS 12 YOUNG LABOR LEADERS AND 16 YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS TO VISIT THE US ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. ON THE LABOR SIDE, THIS INCREASE WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF USICA'S NEW \$35,000 LABOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM, BUT WOULD COMPLEMENT IT.

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5. THE INCREASE IN FUNDING THAT WOULD PERMIT THIS INTENSIFICATION OPPORTUNE MOMENT, RESPOND TO A NEED THAT CANNOT BE MET THROUGH OTHER PROGRAMS, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY PAY REAL DIVIDENDS, PERHAPS IN THE SHORT TERM. TODMAN

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